

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of the claims below will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.*

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (Previously presented) A method for reducing seed shattering in a plant of the species *Brassica napus*, *Brassica juncea* or *Brassica campestris* comprising the following steps:

- (1) creating a population of transgenic lines of said plant, wherein said transgenic lines of said population exhibit variation in podshatter resistance, and wherein said population is obtainable by
  - (i) introducing a chimeric gene into cells of said plant, to create transgenic cells, said chimeric gene comprising the following operably linked DNA:
    - (a) a plant-expressible promoter;
    - (b) a DNA region which when transcribed yields a double-stranded RNA molecule comprising a first and second RNA region wherein said first RNA region comprises a nucleotide sequence of at least 200 consecutive nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 other than a bHLH encoding region;  
said second RNA region comprises a nucleotide sequence complementary to said at least 200 consecutive nucleotides of said first RNA region;  
said first and second RNA regions are capable of base-pairing to form a double stranded RNA molecule between said at least 200 consecutive nucleotides of said first and second regions;
    - (c) optionally, a 3' end region comprising transcription termination and polyadenylation signals functioning in cells of said plant;  
wherein said chimeric gene, when expressed in cells of said plant, increases podshatter resistance compared to podshatter resistance in an untransformed plant, while maintaining an agronomically relevant threshability of said pods of said plant;
  - (ii) regenerating transgenic lines from said transgenic cells; and
- (2) selecting a podshatter resistant plant from said population wherein said plant has pods exhibiting reduced seed shattering while maintaining an agronomically relevant threshability of said pods.

Claim 2 (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said plant expressible promoter is a CaMV 35S promoter.

Claims 3-14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first RNA region comprises a nucleotide sequence between position 27 and 239 of SEQ ID No 1.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said agronomically relevant threshability corresponds to a half life time of the pods in a Random Impact test between 10 and 60 seconds.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said agronomically relevant threshability corresponds to a half life time of the pods in a Random Impact test between 40 and 60 seconds.

Claims 18–23 (Canceled)

Claim 24 (Previously presented) A plant obtainable by the method of claim 1.

Claims 25-26 (Canceled)

Claim 27 (Previously presented) Seed from the plant of claim 24, said seed comprising a chimeric gene as described in claim 1.

Claims 28-30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is *Brassica napus*.

Claim 32 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is *Brassica juncea*.

Claim 33 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plant is *Brassica campestris*.

Claim 34 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the chimeric gene further comprises the following operably linked DNA:

- (c) a 3' end region comprising transcription termination and polyadenylation signals functioning in cells of said plant.

Claim 35 (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the plant is *Brassica napus*.

Claim 36 (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the plant is *Brassica napus*.

Claim 37 (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the plant is *Brassica napus*.